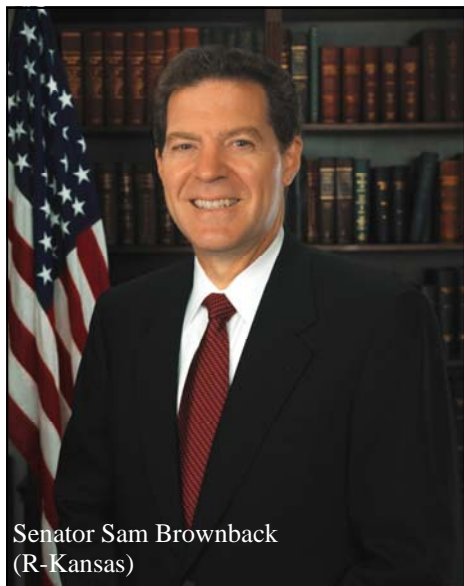




Chair of Senate Appropriations Visits Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration, Meets With TANF Recipients

DHS' Income Maintenance Administration Hosts Focus Group on Marriage, Family Life

A high-ranking member of the United States Senate traveled from his Capitol Hill offices to Historic Anacostia to talk with a group of women about their views on marriage, family and the *American Dream*.



Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District, visited the Department of Human Services (DHS) Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) office in Southeast in June for an informal meeting with TANF recipients about their futures, traditional family values and how to promote marriage.

"We're looking at some of the assistance programs, and we've passed the Marriage Development Accounts to encourage marriage to those who are 200 percent below the poverty level," Brownback said to the seven women who agreed to participate in the hour-long focus group discussion. DHS Interim Director Kate Jesberg, IMA Acting Administrator Sharon Cooper-DeLoatch, and Curtis Watkins, president of the Southeast-based East Capitol Center for Change (ECCC) also attended the forum. The event was co-sponsored by IMA and ECCC.

"The marriage rate in the District is really low. Married households are down nationally. [However], the less income [that a person earns], the lower the number of married people," Brownback said. "...What I'm concerned about is if we [the federal government] have put policies in place that discourage marriage."

A leading social conservative, Brownback championed the Marriage Development Account (MDA) program, which was implemented in the District last year, as part of a \$9 billion budget bill. MDAs provide low-income couples with federal matching funds for money that is saved to

purchase a home, pay for job training, education, or to start a business. The senator from the Wheat State asked candid and pointed questions about traditional unions, co-habitation and if financial incentives would make marriage more palatable.

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Brownback listened intently and learned that TANF recipients, too, have dreams for their children and goals for themselves that include college degrees, home ownership and the hope of a better quality of life with or without a spouse.

"Yes, I want to get married. It brings balance to your life and to your home. Although, my parent's marriage ended in divorce, they were married for 25 years," said Linda Vinson, a single mother of three children who range in ages from 10 to 30 years old.

Vinson, 50, who lives in Southeast, has never been married, although she has received marriage proposals in the past. She looks for certain attributes in a partner that include trustworthiness, integrity, candor and the ability to give emotional support to her and to her children.

"I have not yet found my soul mate – I have not yet found a compatible man who possesses the qualities that I am looking for. Not being married has nothing to do with losing my benefits – it's about compatibility," said Vinson.

"I want my daughter to grow up in a two-parent household. However, my main focus for marriage would be for the two of us [my husband and I] to do what we have to do to make it."

Christel Coleman
Focus Group Participant

Currently, Vinson is enrolled in a Microsoft computer course offered through IMA's Tuition Assistance Program Initiative for TANF Recipients (TAPIT). She said that she has earned her General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and has attended Strayer College in Northwest for two years, majoring in Business Administration.



Direct comments about the DHS OUTREACH to Office of Communications and Public Affairs (202) 671-4420, or visit the website at <http://dhs.dc.gov>

SENATOR, From Page 1

Vinson weighed in when the senator inquired about allowing fathers of children back into the home and allowing the mothers to keep their benefits. Vinson said there should be requirements in place for both parties.

"If mom and dad do not have GEDs, it should be mandatory that both get their GEDs, job training and counseling on how to purchase a home. Children feel better when they see their parents going to work," Vinson said.

Brownback afforded each speaker the same undivided attention that he affords to his esteemed colleagues during Senate hearings. He reiterated his stance on children and marriage during the meeting.

"Research shows that children raised by married parents are far more likely to avoid poverty, crime and failure in school," he said. He also shared some of his personal views and some of his family's challenges with the group.

"Marriage is a relationship sacred under God. Two become one," Brownback said. He told the group about problems with his daughter, but their family pulled together and became even more close-knit.

That type of candid revelation about God and family endeared the senator to Vinson who described him as "a fair man."

"I like Senator Brownback. He has a mild spirit and I was impressed to hear him speak of God, which is an indication [to me] that he is a fair person. He reminds me of a country boy who has worked hard," Vinson said.

Like Vinson, Christel Coleman, a 31-year-old single mother, dreams of walking down the aisle someday. She said that she wants her three-year-old daughter to experience the structure of a traditional nuclear family.



Sen. Brownback listens as Christel Coleman expresses her views on marriage, motherhood, and her future at a roundtable forum hosted by IMA and the East Capitol Center for Change.



"My parents divorced when I was a baby, so I have no memory of a traditional family [with my mother and father]. I lived with my grandparents, so I know about two parent households through them," Coleman said.

"I want my daughter to grow up in a two-parent household. However, my main focus for marriage would be for the two of us [my husband and I] to do what we have to do to make it. That's what I want. But, if it doesn't happen, life goes on and I'm fine with it," she said.

She is not fearful of losing TANF assistance if she marries. Rather, for her, it's about finding the right person to share her life with.

"You have to ask yourself 'Am I going to be proactive or am I just going to sit and waste time? [while waiting for Mr. Right],' she said.

The congenial Southeast resident who flashes a dazzling smile said in five years she hopes to be well established in her chosen career as a medical office assistant. She wants, like every parent, to indulge her daughter. Coleman said she starts classes at the SOME Center for Employment Training in Southeast at the end of August.

Sen. Brownback left an indelible impression upon Coleman, especially considering his position and stature in the Senate. Brownback's incentive for couples to marry, save for a home, start a business or continue their education resonated with her.

"I really like that idea," Coleman said smiling.

"The senator struck me as being a very caring person and you don't find that [characteristic] in many politicians. I was very impressed because he really did listen and he was open to what we had to say," she said.

Left to right, Julia Edwards and Christel Coleman, participants in a focus group on marriage and family life at the IMA office in Southeast.

New Federal Provisions Change Medicaid Eligibility, TANF Work Participation

DHS Vows to Help Residents Obtain Birth Certificates, Keep Medical Coverage

The Bush Administration has approved sweeping changes to Medicaid eligibility and welfare reform rules that will undoubtedly impact poor and low-income District residents and social services agencies nationwide.

"In the District alone more than 100,000 Medicaid recipients must now provide proof of U.S. citizenship in order to receive benefits," said Kate Jesberg, Interim Director of the D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS). Additionally, new work participation requirements have also been mandated, effective October 1, requiring states and the District of Columbia to adjust their welfare-to-work programs, under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

The new Medicaid provision went into effect on July 1st, and as of July 17th, District Medicaid recipients were required to present a birth certificate along with a picture identification to apply for Medicaid or to renew their benefits. The provision was passed as part of last year's Deficit Reduction Act and signed into law by President George Bush in February 2006.

Jesberg said that the Income Maintenance Administration (IMA), the DHS branch that administers Medicaid, TANF cash assistance and food stamps has always reserved the right to request proof of citizenship, if warranted.

"We will work hard in the District to assist residents. It is a very large effort that we're going to undertake," Jesberg said.

To ensure that Medicaid recipients who live in the District do not lose their medical coverage, DHS has partnered with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to obtain birth certificates for people born in the District. For those individuals who were born out-of-state, Jesberg said, DHS will go the extra mile to help them obtain the documents.

There are a few exceptions, however. Birth certificates, accompanied by picture identifications, are not necessary for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or those who are covered under the Healthcare Alliance or Medicare.

Jesberg worries about the ramifications of the tighter identification provisions and their adverse impact on the city's most disadvantaged.

"We anticipate a disproportionate effect on African-Americans, because, as you know, elderly African-Americans were many times not allowed to be born in hospitals, if they were born in the South and then came to live in the District," she said. These citizens may not have formal birth certificates.

"Clearly, the idea that all people are capable of coming into an IMA Center is going to be very problematic. And, in fact, we likely will have to make visits to nursing home facilities, and mental retardation and developmentally disabled group homes," Jesberg said.

The provision counters the efforts that DHS has made over the past decade in making eligibility for healthcare more accessible.



Wade F. Horn, Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, stands with DHS Interim Director Kate Jesberg to unveil the reauthorization of the TANF program.

"We have done mail-in applications where we've verified information over the phone. We've done renewal of eligibility, where we've also verified information either through the mail or over the phone. It is cost effective to get people healthcare, especially preventative care," Jesberg said.

Timelines, Restrictions May Limit DHS Flexibility to Help TANF Recipients Get Jobs

New work participation requirements may reduce federal funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. About 45,000 District residents receive (TANF). The legislation was passed in 1996 and is now entering its second decade.

Healthy adults on welfare must spend a minimum of 20 hours per week interviewing for jobs, working, or participating in supervised community service, according to Wade F. Horn, Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

During a press conference in June to unveil the reauthorization of the TANF program, Horn applauded welfare reform and its new work provisions before social services officials, advocates and reporters at the So Others Might Eat Training Center in Southeast.

But welfare specialists expressed concern that the new federal rules would limit state flexibility to create their own welfare-to-work programs.

"We will work hard in the District to assist residents. It is a very large effort that we're going to undertake,"

Kate Jesberg
DHS Interim Director

District Boosts TANF Cash Assistance Benefits for Low-Income

DHS Applauded by Mayor for Successful Welfare to Work Programs

District families who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance received an increase in their cash benefit over the summer.

In June, Mayor Anthony A. Williams announced that (TANF) cash assistance for low-income families would increase by 7.5 percent. The monthly TANF cash assistance benefit payment for a family of three totaled \$379. The current payment, effective July 1, 2006, for a family of three has increased by \$28 to \$407. The TANF payment for a family of three in Maryland is \$490, while the TANF payment for a family of three in Virginia is \$389.

“This increase is long overdue,” Mayor Williams said during a press conference at the John A. Wilson Building in Northwest.

“With the District in strong financial shape, we need to make sure that our residents who are most in need get increases in their cash assistance payments so that they can begin to rise above the poverty level and become self-sufficient through participation in the District’s welfare-to-work program,” Mayor Williams said.

The Department of Human Services has long supported the monetary increase and remained vigilant in pursuing the increase for recipients. DHS Interim Director Kate Jesberg echoed the Mayor’s sentiments about the increase in benefits.

“I’m very pleased that the TANF cash assistance benefit is being increased to help struggling, poor and low-income families in the District. The cost of living in the District is extraordinarily high and has been for quite some time,” Jesberg said.

“By raising the TANF grant 7.5 percent, the District is working to get TANF cash assistance benefits to the level where they should be, considering the local economy,” she said.

Mayor Williams reiterated his Administration’s dedication to assisting low-income District residents become financially independent. He commended the DHS staff for their commitment to helping TANF recipients get training and find employment.

“We are strongly committed to helping TANF recipients find jobs. The staff at the D.C. Department of Human Services, Income Maintenance Administration do a great job carrying out the welfare-to-work mission,” Mayor Williams said.

President Bill Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act into law on August 22, 1996. The Act, which has been in effect for a decade, reformed the federal welfare system by establishing the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The legislation ended individual entitlements and required states to increase adult participation in work activities.



The monthly amount of TANF payments is based on the size of the family. More than 15,000 households in the District that represent 45,000 individuals receive TANF cash assistance benefits. TANF recipients are expected to participate in employment programs and find and retain jobs.

Mayor Williams also noted that, given the District’s successful TANF and Food Stamp employment programs, the District’s current TANF caseload of 15,614 households is at its lowest level since the 1996 welfare reform went into effect.

The District has been recognized by the federal government for its outstanding administration of its welfare-to-work, Food Stamp and reduction in out-of-wedlock birth programs. The federal government awarded the District 13 out of 14 bonuses totaling more than \$168 million. The DHS Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) earned the federal bonus awards for the city based on outstanding performance. The District has used the money to assist poor and low-income District residents.

REFORM, From Page 3

“Our concern is that this [provision] imposes a lot of arbitrary limitations and restrictions. This, in turn, works to de-fund the program. For example, the Act only allows job search to count towards the Federal Rate for a month — but, sometimes, it’s really important to take extra time with the customers to help them find and get jobs that they can keep — but, that extra time doesn’t count towards the federal work rate,” Jesberg said.



Kate Jesberg, DHS Interim Director fields questions from Network news reporters about new TANF work participation rules.

Jesberg noted that the potential federal penalty exposure for the District is about \$50 million over five years for failing to meet the new work participation rate. She insisted that DHS would do everything possible to see that the District is not penalized, adding that the District is “considering developing a separate program to avoid work participation rate penalties from the federal government,” she said.

“But, to be clear, the District strongly supports work for TANF recipients, but not the arbitrary measurement system imposed by Congress to measure that commitment,” Jesberg said.

Jesberg said that the District has been recognized by the federal government as being outstanding in the administration of its welfare-to-work, Food Stamp and reduction in out-of-wedlock birth programs.

In fact, she noted that the District has received more bonuses from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services than any other jurisdiction in the United States for successes in the welfare-to-work category.

“We have placed more than 13,000 people in jobs. And, many recipients of TANF are very challenged,” she said.

See *REFORM*, Page 9, Col. 2

DHS' Early Care and Education Administration Mandates Approved Curricula for Pre-K Programs Required to Make Curriculum Selections by October 1, 2006

This year, three-and-four-year-olds who attend the District’s subsidized pre-kindergarten programs will continue to color, sing songs, recite nursery rhymes, and learn their ABCs. But now, their days will be structured and teachers must follow a curriculum approved by the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) Early Care and Education Administration (ECEA).

By October 1, 2006, all District community-based subsidy programs must select one of seven approved curricula, and report their selection to ECEA.

“This policy change is a part of our continuing efforts to improve program quality, to ensure school readiness, and to serve as a building block for K-12 educational reform,” said Barbara Ferguson Kamara, ECEA Administrator.

“If we are to reverse the abysmal achievement of third grade students, we need to increase our efforts at the pre-kindergarten level,” Kamara added.



Kamara said that approximately 3,000 preschoolers would benefit from the seven ECEA approved curriculum models that include Scholastic Early Childhood Workshop, Scholastic Building Bridges Toward Literacy, The Creative Curriculum, Core Knowledge, High/Scope, Opening the World to Learning, and Houghton Mifflin Pre-K.

A long-standing child advocate, Kamara led the effort to establish DC’s early learning standards as well as the comprehensive curriculum model selection process. The D.C. Early Learning Standards were completed in 2005 and adopted by the D.C. Board of Education. Additionally, the standards have received endorsements from the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Education (MACECD), and the Universal School Readiness Stakeholders Group, and the SPARK DC Initiative, a project to assist children ages 3 to 6 to be ready for school.

See *CURRICULUM*, Page 7, Col. 2

Pre-K Incentive Teachers Belt Out Songs and Rhymes, Stick to the Curriculum Script *DHS' Early Care and Education Administration Hosts Weeklong Training for Pre-K Incentive Educators, Mandates Consistency, Accountability*

Teachers who participate in the District's Pre-K Incentive Program rattled off their daily routines, exchanged ideas and joined in rousing a cappella renditions of classic children's songs and nursery rhymes during a weeklong training session.

More than 60 pre-kindergarten teachers and teaching assistants participated in *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* workshop conducted in July by Teaching Strategies. Small groups of teachers shared classroom experiences with one another and listened while Patricia Joyner, a national trainer for Teaching Strategies Inc., the developer of *The Creative Curriculum*, guided the teachers through the voluminous curriculum manual.

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Early Care and Education Administration (ECEA) sponsored the event to support teachers in their classroom implementation of *The Creative Curriculum*.

"ECEA wanted to ensure that everyone was on the same page and that they leave the training with a clear understanding of *The Creative Curriculum* and its alignment with our early learning standards," said ECEA Administrator Barbara Ferguson Kamara.

"We want consistency across all programs in implementing the curriculum. You do not want to leave anything up to individual interpretation," she said.

To ensure that children in community-based programs benefit from the research on early learning and school success, Kamara co-authored the "Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program for the District of Columbia" concept paper two years ago. She was assisted in this effort by co-authors Maurice Sykes, executive director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute and Andrea Young, vice president of the National Black Child Development Institute.

Kamara said that the concept paper was submitted to D.C. School Superintendent Clifford B. Janey who embraced its goals and standards. Janey entered into an inter-agency agreement that provided approximately \$4.6 million to fund and implement the Pre-K Incentive Program. The program currently serves 464 children in 29 classrooms.

"The Pre-K Incentive Program serves as a prototype for what high quality programs should look like throughout the District of Columbia," Kamara said.

"In addition to utilizing a curriculum model similar to *The Creative Curriculum*, indicators of high quality programs also include a qualified teacher in every classroom, a low child-to-adult ratio, parent and family engagement in the instructional program, provision of comprehensive services for children in need, and accountability for results."



Patricia Joyner (standing), a national trainer for Teaching Strategies Inc., the developer of *The Creative Curriculum*, walks Pre-K teachers and assistants through the curriculum.

PRE-K, From Page 6

The weeklong *Creative Curriculum* training conducted by Joyner addressed the Pre-K Incentive Program's quality indicators. Joyner, a former District of Columbia Public School teacher and principal with more than 39 years of classroom and administrative experience, conducted a lively and interactive session. She infused humor with hard-hitting facts.

Joyner emphasized the importance of creating a classroom community where children know one another's names and have an opportunity to develop independence and decision making skills through daily "Choice" activities. She further emphasized the importance of resting. She told the teachers about the necessity of "Rest Time."

"Children need to rest, but not all nap. For children who do not nap, give them a book or a LEGO toy," Joyner said.

Last, but not least, Joyner urged the teachers to prepare a schedule and place it in a location where the children can see it.

Pre-K teachers who attended the training sessions said that *The Creative Curriculum* impressed them. Melanie Cerritos, a teacher at Associates for Renewal in Education in Northwest said the curriculum gives teachers insight into teaching methods.

"I think this curriculum gives the children an opportunity to express themselves in many ways. And, it gives teachers a lot more flexibility with lesson plans and overall teaching," Cerritos said.

"I like [*The Creative Curriculum*] because it's child-centered, and we can build our lessons around the child's interest," she said.

Teoshi Edwards echoed her colleague's sentiments. Edwards, a teacher at Sunshine Early Learning Center in Southeast since 2005, applauded *The Creative Curriculum's* approach to learning.

"I think *The Creative Curriculum* is very good. There is a holistic approach – and not a curriculum that will burn out. They [the children] might think that they're playing, but they are actually learning," Edwards said.

Edwards said that she enjoyed the exercise on department stores. Joyner asked the group of teachers to think about what they do not like about stores that they frequent. She then asked them to relate their dislikes to the classroom.

For example, the group said department stores have too many items, not enough inventory, unclean bathroom facilities, and items relocated from place-to-place.

Children, Joyner explained, experience the very same sense of frustration in the classroom when they encounter things that they dislike, such as when their items have been moved without their knowledge.

CURRICULUM, From Page 5



By Eugene Mebane, Jr.—Mebane Images

Left to right, Ward 7 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray talks with ECEA Administrator, Barbara Ferguson Kamara, at a Pre-K for All event at Sunshine Early Learning Center in Southeast.

Kamara said that she views the comprehensive curriculum model selection process as a logical next step.

"Just like the public schools, we are selecting curricula that are aligned with our early learning standards. In addition to the standards alignment, all of these curricula have a built-in student assessment system and a development and training component for teachers."

In preparation for the curriculum selection mandate, ECEA, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Leadership Institute, hosted four Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Institutes over the past two years. Curriculum developers for all seven models provided teachers and administrators with the nuts and bolts of implementing their particular program.

"I'm ecstatic about the comprehensive curriculum selection process. We want to improve the outcomes for children. We want to change those third grade stats," Kamara said.

Bank and Financial Managers Required to Report Suspected Abuse, Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults



Bank and financial managers are now required to report any suspected signs of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of adult customers who are in need of protective services, according to an amended District law under the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) Adult Protective Services program, which went into effect on March 13, 2006.

The law previously required only advocates, guardians, health-care administrators, licensed health professionals, police officers, and social workers to report suspicions of abuse. The law was amended in 2005 to include bank managers and financial managers in an effort to promote awareness of abuse and reduce the financial exploitation of the District's most vulnerable adults.

An adult in need of protective services is an individual 18 years of age or older who:

- *Is highly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation because of a physical or mental impairment, self-neglect, or incapacity;*
- *Has recently been or is being abused, neglected, or exploited by another or meets the criteria for self-neglect; and*
- *Has no one willing and able to provide adequate protection.*

"We need bankers and financial managers to know that if they suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults they are now required to make a report to Adult Protective Services," said Barbara Strother, Chief of Adult Protective Services.

"Once we receive a report, we can conduct an investigation and try to remediate risk if the allegation is substantiated," she said.

Each report should include, if known: The name, age, physical description, and location of the adult who may need protective services; the name and location of the person(s) allegedly responsible for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation; the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation; the basis of the reporter's knowledge; and any other information the reporter believes might be helpful to an investigation.

DHS Adult Protective Services has the capacity to take reports of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week. Reports are investigated and if the allegations are substantiated, services are provided to reduce risk and protect the vulnerable adult. APS will work collaboratively with the reporting bank or financial institution to help vulnerable adults protect their assets and income and establish a safe long-term plan. Reports and inquiries can be made to Adult Protective Services (APS) by calling the APS Hotline at (202) 541-3950.

"Too many of our residents are abused or have been victims of financial misconduct by people they must rely upon and trust," said Department of Human Services (DHS) Interim Director Kate Jesberg.

"By involving many professionals who do business with these residents in the reporting process, we can help protect them," she said.

DHS and Partners Take Extra Steps to Provide Relief During Heat Wave

With this summer's record high temperatures, the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Family Services Administration (FSA), the District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA), and a host of other organizations took special precautions to prevent hyperthermia among the homeless.

Hyperthermia is the general name given to a variety of heat-related illnesses. The two most common forms of hyperthermia are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Of the two, heat stroke is especially dangerous and requires immediate medical attention.

"We're always very concerned about heat stroke as this can lead to fatalities," said FSA Administrator Ricardo Lyles.

"Our goal is to make sure we provide those we find on the streets with an opportunity to cool off, so they stay safe."

During the summer months, DHS and other agencies work together to keep those on the streets healthy and hydrated during declared heat emergencies, which occur when the heat index reaches 95 degrees.



Homeless man cools off at the N.Y. Ave., Housing and Assistance Center in Northeast, a designated cooling center.

HYPERTHERMIA, From Page 8

In response to the severe heat wave on August 3rd and 4th, when temperatures soared past 100 degrees, FSA authorized the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness to expand outreach services through the United Planning Organization (UPO).

Outreach services included the deployment of additional vehicles and staff to locate those living on the city's streets and offer them cold water to stay hydrated. The vehicles were also used to transport citizens who were homeless to a shelter or cooling center if necessary. The District has designated 22 facilities to serve as cooling centers during days when a heat emergency is declared and four emergency homeless facilities, which stay open round-the-clock during heat alerts.

Experienced staff members sought out those who were homeless in downtown areas as well as in more obscure sites, including under bridges and in tunnels.

Lyles said few homeless citizens were discovered outdoors during these heat emergency days. Individuals who appeared to be intoxicated were provided with extra water and urged to stop consuming alcohol during the extreme heat.



Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center in Northwest provided the homeless with a respite from the heat.

"DHS and its partner agencies did our best to reach out to every person we found living on the street, particularly when we felt they were vulnerable to hyperthermia," Lyles said. "We want to be able to keep citizens who are homeless as safe during the hot months as we do during the cold months," he said.

REFORM, From Page 5

"They're challenged with low literacy levels, and perhaps other aspects of their lives are very difficult. What you really need is flexibility to work with someone, and help them get a job and not give up. Ultimately, you can be successful," Jesberg said.



Left to right, Sean French (IMA) stands with Geneya Batchlor, a TANF receipt and welfare-to-work success story.



DHS Interim Director Kate Jesberg sits on a panel with economists and scholars at the prestigious Brookings Institute in Northwest.

The panel discussed the documentary film, Waging a Living: The Struggles of America's Low-Wage Workers.

